



For immediate release

Palliative Care in Quebec: A New Pavilion and the Hope of Catching Up

Montreal, September 3, 2025 – The *Coalition for Access to Palliative Care in Quebec* welcomes the [government's announcement of a new ten-bed palliative care pavilion in Saint-Charles-Borromée](#). Any initiative that increases access to end-of-life care delivered with dignity, and any commitment by the Minister to advance palliative care, is a positive step and good news for the population.

The Coalition wishes to reaffirm that this initiative must not alter the priorities already established in the *Plan d'action 2020-2025 du ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux sur les soins palliatifs et de fin de vie*, which includes, among others:

- the establishment of clear governance structures for palliative and end-of-life care, as well as clinical coordination that addresses significant regional inequalities;
- the training of health professionals;
- increased public awareness; and,
- the creation of a national observatory on palliative and end-of-life care.

The Coalition also hopes that this announcement will not come at the expense of essential support for existing resources and models — which are already enduring severe staff and funding shortages — representing major barriers to accessing quality care. This is particularly true for private palliative care homes and certain home-based palliative care programs.

More broadly, the absence of clear governance for palliative care within Santé Québec remains a source of concern. While Minister Sonia Bélanger has acknowledged that Quebec has “a lot of catching up to do,” this catch-up effort will not materialize without dedicated leadership and stable funding.

The Coalition welcomes the Lanaudière pavilion as an encouraging sign. To ensure equitable and sustainable access to quality care throughout Quebec, adequate funding and strong, accountable governance are urgently needed.

Coordinating Committee of the Coalition for Access to Palliative Care in Quebec:

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- Dr. Louise La Fontaine, PhD, Palliative Care Physician and Ethicist; President, Quebec Palliative Care Association (AQSP)
- Jeffrey Moat, President and CEO, Pallium Canada



- Dr. Olivia Nguyen, Palliative Care Physician; President, Quebec Society of Palliative Care Physicians (SQMDSP)
- David Renaud, Senior Manager – Public Interest Advocacy Team, Canadian Cancer Society
- Laurence de Villers, Executive Director, Greater Montreal Home Palliative Care Society
- Dale Weil, Executive Director, Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence

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About the Coalition

The Coalition is a group of approximately 30 organizations whose mission is to promote equitable access to quality palliative care by addressing the many dimensions of such care across Quebec. It salutes the tireless work of palliative care specialists, as well as all professionals who, while not experts in the field, are committed to providing an approach grounded in compassion and respect.

For more informations:

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